

we'll just let some more people join us um and then do introductions because I

0:07

it was a little while ago we have some new faces as well so

0:16

hi Frank hey good morning you hear me yes

0:26

we are hearing some feedback so if you are not talking if you don't mind muting that would be helpful

0:38

i never use Teams how do I mute little microphone up in the upper right

0:45

just to the left of the leave button

0:51

thank you ah

1:03

um

1:09

can I ask you to print out that whole schedule for me my computer isn't working for whatever reason so going to

1:14

try and set it like restart well I can't even restart it let me see

1:23

having a little technical difficulties down here so um

1:28

let's just wait another three or four 3 minutes maybe

1:40

is the feedback from me or is it from somebody else it's hard to tell

1:47

probably just best practice to go unmute unless you're talking just so that um if

1:52

you are creating it but there's none at this particular moment

1:59

okay thank you

2:09

I may go off camera because my uh my feed is better if I don't have a camera

2:15

absolutely Cynthia Yeah nice to see you

2:20

or soon to hear of you when you go off camera

2:32

okay so um I think that was two minutes

2:38

maybe I didn't two or three minutes um let's get started um I just want to

2:43

start by saying this meeting is being recorded um because that's now a requirement under open meeting law um

2:50

and um Jenny is also going to get a transcript of this meeting just for ease

2:56

um when we go forward on writing the report um so that we have something to look at so that we're not furiously

3:03

taking notes right now um and um I want

3:08

to say thank you everyone for coming um you know this uh working group uh we

3:14

kicked it off and we knew that we were going to have a space where we couldn't focus on it because of election we had a

3:20

major election and then because of legislative session um but then when um

3:26

I've had a couple inquiries about this I know people have been wanting to start to work on this um I know Jenny's had a

3:32

couple inquiries on this um and there is a large body of work that needs to be

3:37

done so um We wanted to make sure that we get got started um it's still

3:44

legislative sessions so there's not a lot of bandwidth um for me on being able

3:49

to do as much as I'd like to do to prepare for these meetings i I just want to be really transparent about that um

3:56

but I think it's we could should start the conversations and um get started so

4:02

um I um hope that all of you have seen there's a document on our web page um

4:10

related to uh this working group jenny I don't know on our website this this word

4:17

document with all of the meetings and all of the um all the teams links all

4:23

the way all the dates all the topics is on our um act 133 uh web page um so if

4:32

you could put that into the chat that would be really helpful so that everyone could bookmark it and have it um and but

4:39

the majority of you at least the people who are named as stakeholders and who were sent as delegates should have

4:46

gotten all of those invitations although I want to confirm with you um and if you

4:52

haven't let me know or and or let Jenny know and we'll make sure to forward all

4:58

those um those dates and times for you um you know it's tricky we get into the

5:05

summer pretty quickly um which is wonderful um but it is a little tricky um

5:12

so um with that I think what we should do is introduce ourselves and because it

5:19

is Friday and because it is sunny and because it is supposed to be somewhat warm and not biting wind um I think we

5:28

should also say um the thing that is giving us hope and joy as we jumping

5:35

into spring so um I'll start my name is Lauren Hibbert i'm the deputy secretary

5:42

of state um and um ostensibly the the

5:47

chair of this working group and the thing there's so many things that I'm I mean maybe I'm just scrambling for joy

5:54

at this moment in full disclosure um but there's so many things that are bringing me joy as the season is turning um my

6:02

most favorite thing is that um a couple of years ago I planted crocuses very

6:07

intentionally in my yard and um I don't know if they

6:13

just naturally move or if I'm having squirrel activity but now the crocuses

6:18

are in places that I did not plant them and it is just bringing me so much joy

6:25

um it's like one of those times where like my need for organization and like

6:30

planning and it's just the way it's working is just working beautifully so

6:36

I'm enjoying that i'm going to turn over to you Sue thank you i'm Sue Sagowski i'm the executive director for the

6:42

Vermont School Boards Association and the thing that's bringing me joy today

6:47

is just having the sun shining and walking through bustling uh downtown Mont Pillar to get here um it's been

6:54

kind of a gray week this week so um really happy to see the sun it's pretty amazing Jenny

7:03

oh you're on mute Jenny i really need to master my microphone

7:08

i'm sorry when I get uh when I get moving fast that's the first thing that goes um I am Jenny Prazer general

7:14

counsel at the Secretary of State's office i've talked to most of you um who are not Secretary of State folks on you

7:21

know a semi-regular basis so that's great to see you um and for me that you

7:27

know it's just the warmth of the sun it's the literal that warm skin feeling that is just wonderful

7:34

great sean Sean Shian elections director

7:41

uh and yeah for me I definitely the sun but I'll throw on there too that forecast

7:48

for tomorrow a little bit of little bit of rain but but weather pushing close to to 70 it's just you know you know by

7:55

Sunday or Monday after that everything should start turning turning green and things starting to pop in the next few

8:01

days so excited for that very exciting megan

8:09

good morning folks can you hear me yes great my name is Nanor and I work at

8:15

CCTV Town Meeting TV in Burlington Vermont think I I signed myself up to

8:20

take a a workshop on planting a kitchen garden

8:26

tonight going to be led by one of my dearest oldest friends so I'm that's hopeful and joyful

8:32

i'm thanking my past self for making a good choice for my Friday evening

8:39

and hopefully that will lead to many yummy meals in the future exactly

8:45

laura Hi I'm Laura Kushman from Disability

8:52

Rights Vermont um I think Lindsay has um been in communication but was not able

9:00

to come today so asked if I would um come on her behalf and on disability

9:06

Vmont's beha behalf so disability rights present um and um I think that for me um

9:15

I I purchased a home at the end of the year uh that is a fixer upper uh with a

9:21

horde um and so I have a million projects to do and now that the weather

9:29

is better um I can make some progress on

9:34

uh the cleaning of the horde and the fixing and the stuff so I'm I'm looking forward very much forward to like

9:41

getting stuff done this spring that is awesome congratulations on

9:47

purchasing your home thank you for being here and good luck with all of those projects i'm sure you have a list and

9:54

you'll make some progress and you'll take some steps back and then make some progress that's how what happens to me

9:59

and sometimes the list expands in that process and that's every day it's like adding something new yeah yeah

10:07

um Frank hi Sue

10:13

she's Hi Frank the uh I'm from Plet and I find myself

10:19

explaining to various boards open meeting law repeatedly

10:25

uh and have knowledge of a neighborhood town i'm not going to rat out that

10:30

during CO uh did nothing uh that where the law applied to COVID

10:39

they just did regular select board meetings and so there's was confusion out there i can see areas where this

10:45

could be simplified um and uh I just got

10:50

done looking at a video on entanglement theory and omnipresence so there's no

10:56

such thing as a past or a future it's only happening right now and it's we're part of the whole entire universe so

11:02

this should be fun and is that your hope for spring

11:09

well is there a spring okay well I guess that we're going to lead into some really deep questions

11:16

here today um Andy

11:21

sure uh Andy Hooper currently uh select board Mbury Vermont previously city

11:27

council Montpielar um various solid waste districts uh regional planning

11:33

commissions and and whatnot um a frequent um unappointed parliamentarian

11:39

and uh subscriber to the open meeting law as well as a 30-year technologist

11:44

who has set up uh meeting spaces for a number of organizations of different

11:49

sizes currently working a couple buildings down the street from you at

11:54

Union Mutual Fire Insurance Company oh wonderful and my positives um boy I had

12:01

to push a whole lot of negatives aside to find one but um our I know that it was it was a hard icebreaker question

12:08

today one today um yeah um our youngest kid is

12:15

doing an exchange program he spent two weeks in France and his host uh the the

12:22

sophomore from France just uh joined us last night getting in around midnight

12:27

and is staying with us for a couple weeks and uh that is certainly a a sign

12:33

of collegiality and friendship and uh membership in a world community and is

12:39

your son back from France did they both come back yeah it was uh they did February break um plus a week of school

12:46

in France and they're doing April break plus a week of school in the US how

12:51

amazing yeah I think let's have more of that please

12:57

yes uh Susan

13:02

hey everybody uh Susan Clark and I live in Middle Sex uh where I uh I serve as

13:09

town moderator that's my uh my big 4h hour a year claim to fame um but I am a

13:14

meeting facilitator uh and uh work with towns across the state on uh community engagement um with with select boards

13:21

and sometimes school boards and whatnot and uh so have a lot of passion around town meeting um and uh our our town had

13:29

a an electronic town meeting for for many many years uh before COVID so have some experience with that uh very

13:35

interested in how we can do all of this together and um and I have to admit I do not usually do

13:42

this but I jumped the gun on spring and I am in Savannah right now and uh where

13:49

it is quite sunny and beautiful um but where unfortunately I uh am having to

13:54

join you from the backseat of a car on a borrowed laptop with with my family running around putting things in

14:01

suitcases and um which it's been a really really joyful week i had my birthday this week and uh spent time

14:07

with my uh family and I had a one-year-old uh almost two-year-old uh

14:13

niece who was just everything everything was awe for her and she was just amazed by the world which made us all amazed by

14:20

the world so that I'm still riding a joyful high from hanging out with a toddler so they love that and I just was

14:30

having coffee at Bohemian with a friend and there was just the best toddlers

14:36

there like with like mud boots and you know like clearly preparing to like sit

14:42

in puddles and mud and um yeah that's so their joy is so good and so you know

14:49

they they don't worry about the same things we do and that's a wonderful thing uh Robin

14:59

Hi everyone my name is Robin Palmer i'm the director of civic and voter engagement at the Secretary of State's

15:06

office um and I'm kind of just listening in for personal interest on this meeting

15:12

so I'll probably be pretty quiet but I'm just happy to uh be allowed to join a

15:17

bit and um I am really excited because uh we had our first CSA pickup and had

15:26

salad last night that tasted so much better than winter salad and it was very nice sign of spring awesome what was in

15:34

your CSA Robin what did they have for you um we got uh lettuce mix we got

15:40

spinach radishes scallions a fresh radish is so good

15:47

that's the truth um Cynthia

15:54

okay hi I'm in Edford and I am a self-employed member of the public based

16:01

um focused on inclusivity and accountability um I was at Well then you're in the

16:07

right place that's we want to talk about that so welcome great and um I put together a welcome manual based on the

16:15

stellar example by Susan um and it seems to be going over well so basically I

16:21

just wanted to be here for my town so that I can bring what you guys are

16:27

saying to them and there's not u much um conflict about what we're supposed to be doing and how

16:34

great well um welcome everybody oh what

16:39

are you looking spring i didn't Sorry sorry um I'm in my fourth year of

16:45

building my house so I'm very excited that I can now get out there and not risk chill blades to um be continuing to

16:53

work on it awesome frank I I didn't catch your last name

17:01

nelson thank you thank you um

17:08

Cynthia good luck with your house projects um I I agree it's so fun to be able to get out and do things um much

17:16

like I was saying to Laura um well um so um if you haven't um Jenny

17:25

put the link in thank you Jenny um what I have done is set up meetings

17:31

essentially every two weeks with some modification based on schedules and um

17:37

you know obviously didn't want to meet the week of 4th of July there was there were some things that were happening um

17:43

adjustments and we have these um we have

17:48

these I think we have eight well we have seven official topics and then the

17:53

eighth topic is everything else that comes up so that's a great catchall um

17:59

but what I've done is spread the topics over um weeks and I've tried to um to

18:08

acknowledge that I think some of them are different in scope and size than others and my hope is at our first

18:16

meeting we talked about um who are the primary stakeholders with each um

18:22

subgroup so for instance topic one um we

18:27

is running effective and inclusive meetings and that's really we said in um

18:33

I believe it was in November that we met that the primary stakeholders were VAN the secretary of state's office VMCTA

18:41

who we don't have representation from um today I need to um reach out to them and

18:47

VCTA which Andy you are a representative from them right and Susan Awesome

18:54

great um so and just for the just for the future minutes it's VLCT I think not

19:01

BLCTA unless it's changed its name okay yeah it's just Vermont League of Cities and Towns yeah yes right i always put

19:08

want to put a because I Yes quite right i apologize um

19:14

and so my hope is that um as we get through these topics the primary

19:21

stakeholders will lead um the conversation and the agenda on those

19:27

topics and and andor help me and Jenny um create the agenda so that we have

19:34

make sure that we're addressing all the right topics um if you don't feel comfortable running the agenda so that's

19:40

why um I wanted to um put this all um

19:47

out into a schedule so people would know sort of when their time to shine i mean

19:53

everyone should shine every meeting but um their time where I'm really looking

19:58

to them to be the experts in the room the the the leads um in the room um and

20:05

if you think that um I have not given enough space to particular topics let me

20:12

know um but you you'll see that the last official topic seven which is

20:20

initiatives for public participation is scheduled right in the middle of August

20:25

and that then um funding was it's just everywhere and then wrap up of any topic

20:34

is um the end of August and then uh September is continuing that

20:40

conversation my hope is that our team will be working on the report sort of

20:47

simultaneously as these meetings are happening so that um you know we have at

20:53

least a rough draft or an outline um starting in September and then we may

20:58

want to meet more to talk about the actual um report and we can talk about

21:05

um we can talk about how um how that looks

21:11

whether if we want to do you know who's the drafter and who's who who has input into that report um and how to do that

21:20

um so does anyone have any questions about the agenda or the way that I've outlined the topics

21:30

megan maybe you just said this but I are this I got a whole list of dates from

21:38

somebody else in your office are they the same as the ones that you just sent whole bunch of calendar invitations are

21:44

they all the same yes they are all the same i just didn't want to go back through and check them all thank you yep

21:50

they're all the same and you can also print off or review digitally that link that Jenny just posted that has all of

21:57

the dates and has all of the teams links and our physical location because now we

22:04

have to have both and um and if you can't make one of these meetings

[22:09](#)

understanding that um or if when someone else from your group comes but you don't

[22:17](#)

come all of them will be recorded and the recordings will be posted online um

[22:22](#)

and there's a lot of people who are very interested in this space um and who I

[22:29](#)

anticipate will be dipping in and out um so you know we may have a different group of public members we have official

[22:36](#)

stakeholder group members and then we have public members so or people members of the public who will have interest in

[22:43](#)

participating so um so anyone who's look looking in the

[22:48](#)

future we'll always have these um posted on on this uh act 133 website until the

[22:55](#)

conclusion of our work um and then um and we will keep the recordings from

[23:01](#)

previous meetings up um I know under the open meeting law we're not required to have them up for um the duration of time

[23:09](#)

that we are intending to but because of the scope and nature of this particular working group we'll have these

[23:15](#)

recordings up until our report is published um because then our report will be the official record of these

[23:23](#)

meetings so um that is the plan um and

[23:28](#)

um is there any other questions on sort of the organizational structure and how

[23:34](#)

we're thinking to do this frank yeah I was wondering generally because

[23:40](#)

there's a lot of players here involved what the expectations of everybody

[23:45](#)

pretty much is kind of what they would might be expecting as an end result or what they

[23:52](#)

want in the process i'm not familiar with everybody's points of view on in in

[23:59](#)

this format in this in this meeting process well Frank what I'm what I'm

[24:05](#)

going to suggest is that we don't put everyone on the spot to do that at this

[24:11](#)

particular moment because the topics are actually pretty diverse and um people's

[24:17](#)

perspectives um may be different on different topics um and I think that's

[24:22](#)

why there was such a wide diversity of stakeholders assigned to this project so

[24:27](#)

um but I will answer um from the Secretary of State's perspective which is um because I think I'm probably am

[24:36](#)

the one who knew that this question would happen so um what I our goal our

[24:43](#)

job is to flush out elements of public meetings um elections annual meetings

[24:52](#)

schoolboard meetings state meetings all the whole gamut of elections annual

[24:59](#)

meetings public meetings state municipal etc there's a whole lot of issues

[25:04](#)

involved and that these are the topics that were too big too weighty and not

[25:11](#)

easily solvable by legislation last year so they all got put into this report and

[25:18](#)

our office made a commitment to the legislature to work with a diverse group of stakeholders which we've assembled um

[25:26](#)

so that we can get everybody's input on all of them all the topics and provide

[25:32](#)

recommendations where we can um to move forward and some of those

[25:39](#)

recommendations um will be best practice guides or things that um you know individual
25:45
organizations will promulgate um for instance I think our office will will
25:52
promulgate perhaps in um in consultation with the league and with the clerks um
26:00
how to run best practices for running an open meeting um then I'm thinking you
26:07
know disability rights it makes sense that perhaps disability rights and the
26:13
secretary of state work jointly on something and I believe we already have
26:18
but like updating it on accessibility to polling and local meetings right and
26:23
perhaps the league is in there too um you know so I think as we go through the topics what's going to happen is we're
26:29
going to know who are the people who are the primaries but my guess is everyone
26:36
in this group has an opinion on every topic because um a we all do all of this
26:43
and b um we're a group of opinionated and smart people so um I'm really
26:48
looking forward to it i think the the pieces that are going to be interesting as we move forward is where are the
26:54
things that we easily agree upon and are easy to make a recommendation to the
26:59
legislature to act on and where are the things that we don't agree upon and how
27:04
do we navigate that and how do we just how do we manage the things that are not
27:10
easy to legislate about and there's quite a few topics here that are not easy to legislate about so um you know
27:17
and I think those are sort of the best practice guides and the the joint work between our various groups so I don't
27:24
know if that answered your question Frank but um I think what I'd like to do is just allow people to go topic by
27:31
topic as opposed to to sort of forecast their position on every topic today
27:37
because I don't think anyone was prepared to do that um so I don't know
27:42
if that satisfies your question Frank but that's that's where I am yeah generally everything's on the table
27:48
in other words yeah yeah i think I think this is a very open conversation um you know unless we
27:57
have a ton of public members and unless um the conversation becomes unwieldy i'm
28:05
not anticipating that we'll close like have a space for public comment i i
28:11
would like us to be able to engage all together at all times but if that structure doesn't work then we'll
28:17
readjust um and I really want to make sure that everyone has equal opportunity to talk about all the topics
28:24
uh Susan okay um great thanks um yeah um i i
28:33
think that I had some sort of similar thoughts and questions um I did a couple of things um it sounds like you'd like
28:40
everybody to talk together about all things at all times which it sounds very open meetingish that's great um and uh
28:48
if there are particular topics um that we have ideas about you were saying like
28:54
okay so the agenda item is X next time and I have an idea about how to talk about that or things I want to make sure
29:01
get brought up should I send my ideas to the full group um for uh uh to suggest
29:07
these are things we could talk about next time or is it just easier to send them to the chair like so that that's one sort of communication line
that i

29:14
that I wanted to check in on um another question I had was just um I was

29:19
rereading the um the draft minutes from last time and there were a couple of things that that I'm interested in and I

29:26
think maybe the league of uh cities and towns is interested in where we didn't get noted down as as uh you know uh

29:33
specific interests and I didn't know if I should add that in now or later or if it matters because they're just draft

29:40
minutes um and it sounds like and third can I add a third question just so I can

29:45
um talking between ourselves between meetings it sounds like that's something that that that's uh we're we're not

29:52
going to be uh doing uh or like what's what in ter like if there's like oh

29:58
here's a thing that the league and the town clerks need to need to work on you know a naughty issue or something like

30:06
that is it a good idea or a bad idea to have conversations about that i think to

30:11
your last question that's a good idea and I'm asking for that to happen um because if there's um places that we can

30:19
do work outside of this um you know we're not an official board we're not

30:26
there's no quorum of us um so I think that it's okay if we do have

30:33
conversations as groups offline um but what and I think we need to um I think

30:42
uh you know if the league and the clerk's association are all really

30:48
interested in annual meeting I'm going to go with annual meeting and whether that can become hybrid and whether we

30:53
can do electronic voting right at annual meeting um then yeah I think that should be talked

31:00
about ahead of time and then we can have a conversation about it as a big group um and if um you have ideas on um the

31:12
the way that the agenda should be or you want to lead the meeting which would even be better um then I would ask that

31:19
you um send those ideas to Jenny Proer um so that we can start um you know she

31:27
can start consolidating those ideas and keeping track of them um you can also send them to me but I will immediately

31:34
send them to Jenny so um that would work really well for our office um and Susan

31:43
I think there was a third question there which was um if you are interested in a topic that you were not noted on or if

31:50
we we missed you in November that's totally fine um just let Jenny know and

31:56
uh we want I mean I I think we're really all here because we really have an input on every single one of these topics i

32:04
just in November what we were trying to do was just note who were the who would be the primary leads on a topic but it's

32:11
in no way exclusive um and in fact I wanted to be as to our mandate as

32:18
inclusive as possible so did I answer all of your questions Susan

32:25
there I know there were those three okay all right Megan

32:32
i and maybe you're about to do this but I'm wondering if would it be helpful for you to hear from us

32:39
like if we do a goaround to say you know what we're hoping to make sure is

32:44
included in the end study if not specific answers to the topics i

32:53
know you have this a big this is a big list but I'm wondering if that would be interesting feedback for you and Jenny

32:58
to collect unless you already feel like you have that

33:04
i do not feel like I have that um and if the group the named stakeholders feel

33:12
ready to do that um then I am completely open to that um I think that was

33:17
somewhat Frank's question and um I was uh candidly being a little defensive not

33:25
wanting to put everyone on the spot so um if people feel ready to talk about

33:30
you know the goals at the end um then that's okay um I was thinking that we'd

33:38
have that over the course of time sort of more organically topic by topic um with the end with the end goal I guess

33:47
that's why I think the report will be um sort of split into first each topic and

33:56
then if there are legislative recommendations then if there are policy um publication type things that need to

34:03
be done and then things that we couldn't resolve and I that's sort of the structure that I was thinking about um

34:10
of course there's money um topics and all of those as well so I'm thinking on

34:16
almost every topic we're going to have to talk about money um and then we have that wrap-up about money at the end um

34:23
but if you guys feel ready to talk about you know what you would like the report

34:28
to ultimately say um or or the outcomes then I'm okay with that too i

34:35
just didn't want to put people on the spot let me just follow up and let me put it this way i'm coming in with a

34:42
bunch of assumptions of what CCTV as and I'm here really representing the Vermont

34:47
Access Network is going to contribute to the conversation and I I have some assumptions of some

34:55
questions that I want answered i don't have the answers or you know I don't know exactly but um you know when Andy

35:02
Hooper says you know I what I don't know is what other people's assumptions are walking in and it would be helpful for

35:09
me to hear what those are so I know and I'm not expecting people to have the

35:15
final answer today i'm expecting to be learning things from other people here as well as um I'm hoping other people

35:22
will learn from Van's experience as well and the MCTA and VCT etc so it would be

35:30
helpful for me if it's even if it's short to just hear so we know how to like maybe connect and align ourselves

35:37
so we can be heard when we come to the meetings well Laura Andy Susan and Sue I'm

35:46
looking to you do you guys feel good about doing that okay

35:53
Laura okay yeah I I could do that sure okay

36:01
what sorry Laura oh just Yeah sure okay

36:06
we're talking general is that right sorry generally the question is what we as a member of

36:14
the working group you know want to add to the conversation or hope will come out of the conversation

36:21
okay yes good good synopsis of the question so Megan why don't you go first

36:26
since it's your question model model how you how what you'd like answered okay

36:33
and thanks Laura for um I'm going to use you as my as the person who can frame up

36:40
what I say short and sweet um so the Vermont Access Network as folks may or

36:45
may not know provides hybrid meeting support in some cases archiving support

36:50
to municipalities around the state based on cable

36:56
uh franchise areas so that means we don't meet all of the municipalities in

37:01
the state and our goal as VAN is to provide some options um some various

37:08
options for making meetings accessible we have a strong um desire to make sure

37:14
that what we've learned during COVID can um be implemented around the state and

37:21
can grow and we recognize that there are different um limitations both technical

37:28
capacity capability awareness interest

37:34
political um will and cost and so what we want to

37:39
do is provide some experience we have folks that work in all regions of the

37:44
state to share both our our stories on that and then a second side to that

37:50
besides the hybrid meeting support is this question of archiving meetings

37:56
and I will say transparently that I believe at this point in our um tech

38:03
technical life that we can begin to archive meeting content

38:09
in full for um a longer period of time with metadata attached so that people

38:15
can access those um meetings and Van has some experience doing that in fits and

38:21
starts and in different ways with video content which I know is a a tricky business so those are the things that we

38:28
hope to bring and I hope to connect with other folks on the technical aspect so this

38:34
preserving accessibility and making access to meetings so people don't have to drive two hours in a snowstorm

38:43
we can pivot quickly in a pandemic but also folks who might want to just beam

38:49
in and see what's going on with their camera off can do that as well so um that's what we hope to bring i l'm not

38:56
sure if I got everything there so don't don't hold me to it there may be obviously I want to This is a firm

39:01
commitment Megan of course of course that that applies to

39:07
everyone answering this question and there may be things that develop that you can't even anticipate right now so

39:12
exactly thanks Laura

39:18
uh sure i think that um at least you know my understanding disability

39:25
rights Vermont is hoping hoping for all of those best practices

39:30
uh inclusivity accessibility and the protection of the rights of people with

39:35
disabilities across the board um and whatever way our voice can um add to uh

39:45
the conversation to make sure that we're not forgetting anybody or or any

39:52
possible means of access um and maybe what we bring is obviously

39:59
you know some awareness of some of the challenges for people with disabilities that may not be right off the top of

40:06
people's minds when they're coming up with ways of creating accessible spaces

40:12
um we also you know Disability Rights Vermont um does the um accessibility

40:19 surveys for the state of Vermont so we have almost completed over the last number of years a survey of every um
40:27 polling place and we have that data and we know where um polling places still
40:34 struggle to be accessible just physical accessibility that this isn't even talking about the hybrid possibilities
40:41 and the um technical assistance um possibilities but um so we we have a lot
40:49 of data that could be informative of our baseline you know where are we at right
40:55 now in terms of accessibility in our polling places um for uh physical
41:01 accessibility and then you know so maybe we can add some of that information and
41:07 we do do a lot of um you know voter
41:13 outreach to our communities with disabilities to our um incarcerated uh
41:20 community members um and um and uh we
41:26 participated in a bunch of um voter outreach through uh at some of the local
41:32 hotel voucher program hotels um this year so um you know maybe have some
41:41 information that we can add in terms of you know h how to improve voter turnout
41:47 and um things like that so thank you Laura and I should have said
41:54 this with Megan as well but I think both of you as stakeholders have such valuable input to us and expertise to us
42:03 um particularly those of us who are very much in just the government space um we
42:09 need your voices so I'm very grateful you're here um thank you Andy andor
42:16 Susan andy I see you you had some food delivery which is the best thing about coming to a meeting from home that's
42:22 like phenomenal i love it i want to know what you're eating of course if you feel comfortable disclosing but you know what
42:28 are your goals a lovely uh scramble with pico and feta and a a toasted tortilla to go with it um my wife is a professor
42:36 at the college and her classes this this semester are uh Monday through Wednesday
42:41 so she often gets to work from home Thursday and Friday um I work in
42:46 Montpelier one or two days a week and I'm often in our second uh smaller home
42:52 office when I'm here um anyway getting getting to the question at hand which I
42:58 think is a good one it's nice to kind of have a little little sense of the perspective that we're bringing here um
43:05 again I've been working in technology for 30 years i started uh running a dialup ISP in rural Alaska after college
43:13 and then moved back to Vermont and one of my first jobs was uh doing
43:20 uh tech support for smaller municipalities that didn't have any on-site IT and my hope is that uh as
43:30 Megan was saying right that we can come up with kind of like a a small medium and large best practices so that
43:38 everyone gets on board meeting it and that the the path to step up your
43:43 sophistication and the services you deliver is clear as well um
43:50 there is very little capacity in the solid waste districts in the smaller
43:55 towns for for technology and for technology burdens um the

44:02
the amount uh where each little department is buying their licenses uh

44:09
by ones and by twos and it's just so haphazard versus what you see in the uh

44:16
private sector space is it is sad and inefficient and however much clarity and

44:24
kind of cookie cutter approach we can provide I think is going to be very helpful

44:31
yeah I agree and I also think we need to be talking as a state about how to are

44:38
there ways that we can do contracting um where municipalities can um you know we

44:45
have a bulk contract and municipalities can opt in on um I also think we need to be talking about you know if the

44:52
expectations of small bodies are in increasing we need to talk about how we

44:58
fund that um because this is all for the public good um and um the expectations

45:04
if they're going to be universal need to be um we need to take into account the

45:09
capacity to pay for things that cost the same you know we have a it's it's like um Vermont has to do all of these things

45:16
that California has to do but they have so much more money but we have to buy the exact same software that California

45:23
needs to buy and so the costs are the same for Vermont and California and there's just that's sort of like Talis

45:29
and Burlington um right just on a different scale one other uh little

45:34
comment um Megan I want to very much thank CCTV we just got Drew Darrow um

45:41
working for MCTV a couple months ago and what a treat he is fantastic

45:49
yes you are welcome i was glad no longer driving so yeah

45:57
susan do you have anything that you want to add to what Andy said yeah I I love

46:03
the small medium and large uh uh concept i do think Vermont is so uh our

46:09
communities are so diverse uh in terms of the way they organize themselves and I mean from far away it looks like

46:15
Vermont's you know we're all alike and of course we all know that that's not true and I think that one of the things

46:21
that's most exciting to me about this conversation is um highlighting or even

46:26
creating choices for t like here are a bunch of good ways to do this not

46:32
everybody's maybe going to do it the same way but here's best practice here's what's crucial about inclusion um

46:39
about making sure that all voices are able to be heard um and so meet these um and hear lots of different possible ways

46:46
to do it so that to me that's what's great about this conversation um because I sort of see a I think one of the

46:54
things that we can a theme I think that will be running through our conversations is um in terms of

47:01
democracy um the the quantity we we want as much access as we can we want

47:07
democratic quantity we want as many people involved we want people to feel welcome we want to lower reduce

47:13
eliminate barriers um to to participation and we also want that democratic quality want um

47:25
sort of uh down the Democratic Susan maybe go there are Susan I'm sorry

47:32
to interrupt can you go off camera because you're breaking up so that you were doing great on camera but I think

47:39
now maybe yeah will this help hopefully it'll help

47:46
um but um yeah so um looking for uh uh best practice that will emphasize both
47:53
inclusion and democratic quantity and also um you know the best experience for
47:59
the people in the room uh if there if there are people in the room or or online that will allow them to truly see
48:06
each other yeah um
48:13
thank you u VSBA is definitely
48:18
uh wanting to help our members hold the most inclusive um and accessible meetings possible and we have the past
48:26
two conferences that we've held we hold our conference in the fall um we've had a workshop on that topic and we had um
48:33
Lauren and this the secretary of state come in the fall of 23 I believe it was
48:38
and last year um we had a a workshop that involved the Green Mountain self-
48:44
advocates on this topic um so it's something that we're definitely um
48:50
interested in learning more about from all of you as to um how we can continue
48:55
to um continue on this journey and wanted to um let all of you know that
49:03
there are um district quality standards that are going into effect on July 1 2025 that include governance standards
49:11
for school boards and um I sent the link to Lauren so um you can provide it to
49:17
everyone if you like but one of the um governance under governance priorities boards are going to be required to um
49:26
follow an inclusive process to invite and incorporate community input into the vision and goals for the school system
49:33
and then under protocols they have to um
49:38
evaluate the effectiveness of their community engagement and public communication efforts and those are just
49:44
two of the um policies and um priorities and protocols that they have to do there
49:50
there's quite a number of them and they're going to be actually um having to do a self-evaluation each year that
49:57
the agency of education will be looking at and um that there's going to be uh
50:04
you know accountability for school boards on all of these standards so I wanted to let you know about this that because I think it folds into
this work
50:11
but that isn't published or public yet those quality assurance standards um the
50:17
the standards are public um and published the rubric that is going to be
50:23
used for them to rate themselves is still under development by the agency what you sent me is public yes okay i
50:29
just want to make sure yes um before I send it yeah okay thank you um
50:36
Megan does that was that good is that what you wanted needed that was great i
50:42
think there are a couple other stakeholders not here right but I think Yes there are yeah there are i was very
50:48
happy right um and yes what we're going to have to reach out and and confirm
50:55
who's going to be I think there's been some changes um a foot for many of these organizations so that'll be uh homework
51:03
for Jenny and myself before the next meeting to make sure that we get people the from each stakeholder group here and
51:10
um one thing that um popped into my mind as you were talking Megan is I think
51:16

particularly on some things we should probably have Tanya Marshall who is the state um you know archivist and um chief

51:24

records officer to come in and provide guidance on what is legally required for

51:30

all of the bodies to keep and what is not um and there's some good reasons to

51:37

get um to destroy records that you don't need to keep um because uh there's costs

51:44

to keeping them and there's costs to dispersing them when you get public records requests and there's you know

51:51

they we want to make sure with all of these things um and I'll just say um I

51:56

know what Tanya will say on this topic and it's the position of the Secretary of State that we don't fundamentally

52:02

change what's required of public bodies which is minutes um and that the minutes

52:07

are the official record uh and not a digital recording um and so um I just

52:13

want to make sure that we are um keeping track of that and um maintaining you

52:19

know the the the core fundamentals of open meeting law so um I'm sure there'll

52:24

be times when we need her input um on storage how long all of those things

52:33

and that's been one of the biggest questions that um Jenny primarily answers these questions for the office

52:38

how long do recordings need to be kept how especially if there's not an official if the body doesn't approve

52:44

minutes or if the meetings are very long in distance you know a lot of space in

52:50

between the meetings too so um all right anything more on those things

52:58

so it's interesting because I I hear you and I hear that the the legal definition

53:04

of the 30 days past the and I have talked with Tanya and I I

53:10

just want us to stay open to possibilities of how technology is

53:17

absolutely that for me the the underlying While it may be the minutes

53:23

what I also understand is the underlying principle is that we understand

53:28

what went into making a decision not just the final decision so if a decision

53:34

is made and so maybe Jenny can help me understand that but that's where

53:40

um for me and I'll you know I'll just give a small example of that um in Burlington

53:46

the the police commission was meeting and they were discussing how they were this was actually 10 years ago after

53:53

Burlington had declared itself a sanctuary city and they were discussing

53:58

how the police chief was implementing those sanctuary city policies and when

54:05

migrant justice listened to the meeting and heard how he was interpreting that

54:11

they were able to then go back and have a conversation and say "Hey we're interpreting this in different ways."

54:17

And that's very different participation it's a very different outcome when you hear what goes into making the

54:24

decision as opposed to the actual um just the actual end of the meeting so I

54:31

I I understand I understand the Secretary of State's position we as

54:36

having archiving meetings that people come and access you know five ten years

54:42

later in video form have a just a different feeling about that about the
54:47
importance of that and so I think I just want to keep that open and certainly there's nothing in the law that prevents
54:55
um the access network or other people from Absolutely we have to think about
55:00
what's legally required for a body to maintain that's very separate from what
55:05
your organization can do and um yes absolutely have an an open mind and um
55:13
we were advocating um when act 133 was going through that
55:19
the video be maintained for until the meeting minutes were approved um and you
55:26
know that has been a burden for some communities so I I just wanted to point out that I and I didn't mean to
55:32
introduce the the debate right now um but what I what I wanted to say is I think there's another voice that we may
55:38
need in the conversation at times and I just wanted to let people know that I probably will invite her to that
55:44
conversation at times and I I'm not going to continue the debate but it may
55:49
be important to separate archiving from hybrid access so we may just want to make sure those are two separate topics
55:57
when we get to discuss it so because I have different um parts but thank you
56:03
yeah of course frank did you have a question or concern
56:08
uh yeah the my background I have a extensive background in technology i
56:16
I for example wrote the white paper for VMware before they were actually a product and a big open-source
56:24
person and um worked with training of people staff
56:30
on technology and you always have to aim at the lowest common denominator uh individual
56:38
as to how you're going to ramp things up because that's you can't leave somebody behind so you start with that premise
56:45
that you're going to be dealing with someone who's not getting it as quickly as somebody else maybe um which is in
56:52
the disability range range and it's also humanity uh so I was really focused on
56:59
keeping it simple stupid uh not be you know because we can maybe
57:05
not we should maybe that doesn't mean we should uh and the word must when it
57:12
showed up in the language was in interesting because what if must
57:18
can't happen uh from a technological perspective or because of staffing uh
57:24
you sometimes have in town offices for example somebody who is the who can run the meeting but if that meeting person
57:31
suddenly isn't available then can can the meeting continue without the without the training of somebody else to fill in
57:39
um and so how can a state facilitate an
57:44
easier technological jump for everybody on a standardized basis is something
57:52
that is I have a little Asberger so I can go into very long detail but I'm not
57:57
going to now uh you can thank me for that ask Susan about that
58:02
the uh but the but the the the concept of of open meeting and the digitization
58:10
of it is something I was pursuing with the legislator through legislative people back in 2018
58:17

where uh I saw elements of it that could be could be opened up to people who were
58:25
remote um and then all of a sudden COVID hit and they had to scramble to do
58:31
essentially what I was trying to advocate in 2018 um yeah that accelerated the
58:37
conversation Frank and I think that acceleration was good but now we're dealing from with
58:44
the ripple effects of the conversations that we couldn't have because of the acceleration right um and that's really
58:51
why we're together i think it's just a matter of of ironing
58:56
ironing it out we're at the ironing out phase because you know there's elements there but like Andy said there's people
59:03
that on a bell curve uh that just simply are going to be in a different place
59:10
than other people and um I've been in tech for I'm a Linux geek i do a lot of
59:19
things open source wise uh and I see a
59:24
lot of potential there from a cost-saving perspective um and have some ideas and at some point
59:31
in time the framework I think and when you're looking at the technology and the agenda here is uh when I'll introduce
59:38
that I can introduce it at any time I can talk to Andy offline we can compare notes um however um
59:48
um in regards to the recording ings that Megan was talking about and keeping the
59:55
recordings available um that's an interesting thing
1:00:02
technologywise it's easy to say but sometimes as Andy Hi Frank frank I'm sorry i'm just going to interrupt you
1:00:08
because I did have a little agenda here that I want us like a structure of the conversation so um I think I hear I'm
1:00:17
finishing right now i'll finish right now is that so elements of every what
1:00:22
everybody's concerned about are certainly going to be able to follow up
1:00:27
in in in other meetings um and I think
1:00:33
that keep it simple is a focus that we should really all be involved with uh
1:00:40
and at lowest cost possible um as as another goal thank you thank
1:00:48
you Frank i I think we all want to focus on that as much as possible jenny
1:00:54
um I was just hoping that Cynthia could speak to what she put in the chats that that is um I think she made some good
1:00:59
points there and it would be on video then thanks yes that'd be great i
1:01:06
somehow can't get into camera anywhere so um it says no available camera found
1:01:12
but I can speak anyway um which is good
1:01:17
um so when people in towns which have a a long uh legacy group running things
1:01:25
and they tend to be older um they always win the elections because the new people
1:01:30
are not known or they have no experience being on a board um and so to have
1:01:37
training in advance to anyone who wants it so for instance we have a new moderator this year who has never been a
1:01:43
moderator before and she is going to very dig diligently uh learn how to be a
1:01:48
moderator but who knows what town meeting is going to be like next year and we had issues so um I'm hoping that
1:01:55

there'll be some training for new people who want to participate fully so that they are on even keel with the people
1:02:02
who have been in in the the roles um the minutes warnings and agendas tend to be
1:02:09
muddled and unclear so that even the people who are on the committees cannot
1:02:15
figure out what happened at the meeting who said what what was decided what was voted on etc it's not intuitive to be a
1:02:22
leader it's not intuitive to write minutes having been um in many offices
1:02:27
where I was taking the minutes I know how to summarize things and um how to interpret things that AI can't we're
1:02:34
leaning heavily on AI and that is uh unwieldy with 12 or 15 pages of of
1:02:41
verbatim and um so I'm hoping that there'll be something about standards on
1:02:47
how minutes can be presented what a good minutes looks like um and how not to
1:02:53
warn things so that they disturb and deter people from showing up
1:02:58
um so it just seems like all of that stuff I'm not sure if it's going to be covered
1:03:04
but that's those are my concerns about participating in town meeting we had very little um participation i was told
1:03:12
it was not allowed to put it on video um even though I offered to do it and there
1:03:19
was a lot of intimidation factor going on and I'm wondering if there's any way to help that lessen that intimidation so
1:03:26
that people feel free to speak up say their peace and not be then ostracized
1:03:31
later for it or feel terrible and have to leave the town meeting early that's all I got thank you no I think that's
1:03:39
great thank you um so the goals of this
1:03:44
first topic running effective and inclusive meetings um in the report we
1:03:50
are supposed to talk about the use of universal design for annual meetings and meetings of public bodies um that's the
1:03:57
first topic training for public bodies to be compliant with open meeting that's
1:04:02
the second topic recording meetings of municipal public bodies and the means and timeline for posting those for
1:04:09
public access um that really was a that's the third topic that really was a big topic of act 133 because for state
1:04:17
bodies um it's pretty clear what we have to do um for municipalities that was
1:04:23
contemplated but ultimately not included because of the costs for municipalities and the diversity of our municipalities
1:04:30
and D uh the fourth topic was creating best practices for running an open
1:04:35
meeting um in all formats so those are that first topic there's a reason why it's spanning um three three meetings um
1:04:45
because it's very very big but I was thinking um that perhaps we should come
1:04:52
to a common understanding first and use our remaining you know we have a
1:04:57
remaining 50 minutes of um concepts or a definition of effective
1:05:04
and inclusive because I want us to thinking all of those four topics we
1:05:11
need to be looking at through what is effective and what is inclusive um and
1:05:17
you know I think we all strive to do that in different ways but it would just be helpful um to to talk about how what
1:05:27
does it mean to be inclusive and what does it mean to be effective so um
1:05:32

in the context of open meeting law um and oh um it's in this it's in the
1:05:40
report language Megan um but um sorry yeah it's in the report
1:05:46
language um so um let's do this let's um talk first about
1:05:55
what does it mean to be effective what does it mean to hold an effective open meeting and um I'll pick up
1:06:04
something that Cynthia put in her chat and spoke to a little bit is um clarity
1:06:09
on the agenda um I think that is helpful for an effective open meeting
1:06:17
does anyone else have things that help define what it means to be effective
1:06:30
i guess I would just follow up on what you just said Lauren and say that um I
1:06:36
think what that means is that the public is able to understand what is going to
1:06:43
be uh covered at that meeting i agree by reading the agenda I agree
1:06:58
cynthia um quite specifically so lately in the planning commission
1:07:04
meetings there have been we are going to be talking about article 5.6 six level
1:07:09
paragraph three you know whatever nobody knows what that means and it takes three or four or five clicks to figure out what it means and
so sometimes I will
1:07:16
take it upon myself to say "Hey if anybody's interested in daycare
1:07:21
facilities or um bed and breakfast or you know whatever it is that actually
1:07:27
those paragraphs regard to um to go beyond the um bureaucracy speak and to
1:07:34
actually make it plain that that's that's specifically effective agendas
1:07:41
plain language plain language
1:07:50
frank yeah on the effective side of things
1:07:55
what I've you know if you figure you got to plan for the worst case is when you have a
1:08:02
meeting you have the agenda everybody knows that the the agent the the digitalized uh open meeting hybrid
1:08:10
process really is just an extension of a voyeurism uh ability of everybody to sit in on a
1:08:16
meeting when they can't actually physically be there but we enter into a must language where
1:08:23
um items on the agenda such as treasurers
1:08:28
uh warrants things like this that are important regarding payroll issues
1:08:37
etc uh if there's a technology interruption where all of a sudden a member of who is
1:08:44
participating and is needed in in the formation of a quorum suddenly has a
1:08:50
computer glitch something happens which we know we've all experienced it um then
1:08:56
there should be some allowances made for items and agendas statewide
1:09:04
which are really necessary to happen
1:09:09
mission critical for towns and other bodies to conduct where if there is a interruption
1:09:17
of the meeting technologically where the must language fits in um that
1:09:25
there is an exception to the rule and that those rules are fully understood

1:09:31
and are accommodative to the uh intent of the inclusion

1:09:38
uh um mandate of the law so this is

1:09:43
something I've seen on a contingency basis might need to be entertained and I

1:09:49
don't know how to tackle that one because there are like grants

1:09:55
application dates and things like this that select boards etc have to decide on

1:10:00
where if you have an interruption to the meeting and the meeting can't flow in a must language um from a hybrid

1:10:09
perspective anymore then uh that kind of leaves things up in the air and dates get missed you got to have payroll go

1:10:16
out warrants have to be approved so there is from an effective perspective

1:10:22
there's mission critical and then there's non-m mission critical and I think that that needs to be uh addressed

1:10:28
thank you thank you Frank

1:10:35
any other ideas on effective how what running an effective meeting means

1:10:45
megan yeah so well I'm a little Are we just sort of popcorning and then you're

1:10:50
gonna Yes we're we're popcorning yes okay um and one thing that comes up is

1:10:58
um on the issue of inclusivity is and I guess this dubtales with the

1:11:04
training piece when recently um

1:11:10
I'll give this in an as an example is that okay is that helpful yeah I was I was trying to do effective

1:11:17
first and inclusivity second but um I mean I understand that there's an overlap obviously but um I was trying to

1:11:24
focus on effective first just so that we can keep that line of feedback all

1:11:30
together and then inclusive got it u well I guess um

1:11:37
Okay I'll pause then i guess I'm thinking more on the inclusive side

1:11:43
uh I'll just say for me an effective meeting is one that has an agenda and

1:11:50
it's effective I think when you can get through an agenda whatever questions are

1:11:58
posed get some answers um whatever uh

1:12:03
the problem that needs to be resolved there at least some solutions on the

1:12:09
table and and it's effective when you know the people who want to participate

1:12:17
are able to participate and engage so I I think to me that's an effective

1:12:24
meeting i agree great and so I I will follow up on so I

1:12:30
guess that would also be that the right voices are at the table to hear you know

1:12:37
you're getting input from the people that you need to get input from so from a variety of sources

1:12:44
yeah so that that the the invite list and the um the well that the agenda is

1:12:52
clear so people know if they're interested in being at that meeting but then if there's specific people that

1:12:57
let's say the select board needs to hear from that they um make sure that all of those people are there so that they have

1:13:03
all of the voices before they make a decision um I'll just say that um

1:13:09
something that comes to mind based on what you said Laura which I strongly agree with is that the next steps are

1:13:15
clear um that there's an agreement or an maybe not an agreement but a clear

1:13:22
understanding of everybody in the room what the next steps are so that there's maybe there's a decision maybe the

1:13:28
decision is going to be in a month or two months because the body needs additional information um but the steps

1:13:34
to get to a decision or the steps uh that radiate from the decision are clear

1:13:40
to everybody uh Susan

1:13:48
Um yeah I think these this is a a great list and um I would just add maybe

1:13:54
something about I mean I I think we mentioned full information that the that the meeting has full information that everybody there has has access to the

1:14:01
information that they need and um a effective use of people's time so time

1:14:07
management a good use of time basically making it worth people's time um and

1:14:12
really that has to do with well facilitated I mean it's the meeting has to um have somebody who can uh set up

1:14:20
the agenda and and facilitate it well um uh and then so I think that I think the

1:14:25
other ones have been covered um I might just add um transparency um in terms of what is what is the purpose of the

1:14:32
meeting and as you said what are the then the outcomes and actionable items after the meeting

1:14:41
i would love to have meetings like that me too all of them

1:14:50
um anything else on effective

1:14:55
okay let's go to inclusive which I think is really you know in a ven diagram they

1:15:00
really overlap it was it's somewhat artificial to separate them but let's go to inclusive what does inclusive in the

1:15:07
open meeting concept mean

1:15:13
i'm going to take Cynthia's um plain language

1:15:19
and build on clear agendas

1:15:27
cynthia um so on the clear language we all know that when you're in a

1:15:33
particular discipline in the in government or as an architect or

1:15:38
whatever your discipline is that there's a particular language that is used and the language that is used in that

1:15:45
discipline often precludes other people who don't know that language from participating

1:15:51
right true so so shortcuts and acronyms and things like that again it's that's that's another piece of the plain

1:15:58
language thanks it's very um well I'll say you you guys will see

1:16:04
because at some point you're going to watch me type i'm sure I'm dyslexic and I get all acronyms wrong which is why I

1:16:11
put an A on the league's um the league's uh acronym because I hate acronyms and

1:16:18
I'm dyslexic and so as soon as there's a whole bunch of letters um and or jargon

1:16:24
I get very intimidated because I I am a reasonably smart person um but I just

1:16:32
this is a world that never will work for me um and that's okay um but as as it

1:16:39

gets very jargony or very acronym um full or having to go I mean I am a
1:16:44
lawyer so I'm I'm good at researching things but um but if I were not I'd be
1:16:50
very intimidated by having to dig deep into law to understand what a body was
1:16:55
going to talk about so um yes I agree plain language and less
1:17:03
jargon as a form of kindness as a Yeah and and necessity yeah
1:17:12
sean I'd say back on the the ven diagram part with with the effectiveness I think what
1:17:18
you and Susan and so many others were saying about that clarity of purpose of
1:17:23
the meeting being is it to make a decision here is it to gather more information to make a decision at the next meeting i think that kind of uh
1:17:31
planning and clear communication out for when decisions will be made when
1:17:38
they should be made feeds into the inclusiveness part particularly if there's a real effort made to say this
1:17:44
is going to be our target for two meetings from now who do we need to bring to the the table whose voice isn't
1:17:49
isn't heard um because that's usually going to take a couple meetings you're going to pull in some some people who
1:17:55
you think might relate to it and they're going to you know think of people that and in groups that u that you hadn't
1:18:01
thought of before so I think there needs to be that uh kind of conscious effort and the more those decisions can be
1:18:09
telegraphed out and it's not doesn't always work sometimes decisions come flying up and need to be made fast but
1:18:14
wherever possible if that can be a principle I think it helps with inclusivity
1:18:22
yeah cynthia I just noticed your comment in the chat and I just want to add it
1:18:27
vocally because um we are taking it doing a transcript um and I believe it
1:18:33
goes into effective um category which is that members arrive prepared having done
1:18:38
their homework i just wanted that to be um noted on the recording um anything
1:18:44
else in um accessibility or Yeah inclusivity inclusivity yeah
1:18:52
well let me say I believe accessibility is part of inclusivity but yes so uh I
1:18:57
was just going to mention reduction of barriers for people to be able to attend the meeting yes
1:19:05
and that can be physical digital logistical all types of barriers right yeah
1:19:13
um Frank of course Andy would agree we were
1:19:19
talking about the technological aspects of this as foundational to the expansion
1:19:25
into the hybrid arena and um uh other than that it's an inclusiveness is you
1:19:33
know that the town of Paul had an inclusive statement put on its web page during those periods of time and I
1:19:40
brought up that really it's an extension of two words peace and love and uh um
1:19:47
and as long as We're all involved with that as our foundation to our
1:19:53
interaction with other people we know we're going to have a good outcome and in being inclusive is really a is that
1:20:03
and no matter what should never be compromised in my opinion especially
1:20:09
because we're entering into a world where we have a lot of people in the spectrum which I discovered in recent
1:20:15

years that I have in the Asberger spectrum that if anybody interacts with
1:20:21
me beware because I will go on and on and I don't recognize it um and so we're
1:20:28
dealing with from the disability aspect of things people who will be attending
1:20:33
meetings in a greater rate if the numbers of the expansion in the future
1:20:38
of the people population-wise who are in the spectrum uh may we have to understand that the
1:20:46
peace and love aspect of this has to accommodate everybody and I think that
1:20:52
uh as long as we keep that as our goal we can't go wrong thank you thank you um
1:21:01
Megan you had your hand up but I wasn't sure if you wanted Oh she looks like she's maybe talking to somebody else
1:21:07
jenny uh you were next
1:21:12
i just think as a baseline it goes It probably goes without saying with this group but just freedom from um
1:21:19
discrimination and harassment right that's like the absolute base baseline for just having an inclusive meeting
1:21:25
which it doesn't always happen for folks or people don't always necessarily feel like they can speak because of concerns
1:21:32
about those um that being a part of the conversation
1:21:38
yes that is a question that we how do I deal with the fact of that ramification is a
1:21:44
question that comes into our office um Susan
1:21:50
hey um great list and um yeah I would add I'm not exactly sure how to say this
1:21:56
but sort of balancing and navigating um competing uh inclusion needs for the benefit of all um just a quick example
1:22:04
that comes to mind for me is um I was working with the town of Jericho which um had a hybrid town meeting this year
1:22:10
which was really cool so interesting we'll probably have to have them in um but one of the things that the folks who
1:22:17
were online from at home were asking for was um we we can't hear as well we want
1:22:22
you to come to the front of the room and use a microphone um so that using a microphone was helpful for people who
1:22:29
couldn't hear and it was helpful for people who were online and it's also uh
1:22:34
uh absolutely proven to reduce participation because people are terrified of microphones um and they
1:22:39
really don't want to walk to the front of the room and um you know so a way to balance that is to have microphone
1:22:45
runners um have little kids carrying the microphones to the seats um so that people don't have to stand in line so
1:22:51
it's just an example of a of of maybe best practice ways that we can offer that would um allow uh inclusion and
1:22:58
sort of navigate the needs and balance the needs of competing inclusion needs thank you that's that's a awesome that
1:23:06
they did that and be a great example um Andy
1:23:11
thanks um I just wanted to uh to suggest that there's a tension between uh Sean's
1:23:19
suggestion about reaching out to people and making sure that you actually go
1:23:24
through and and hear from every stakeholder on issues um who wants to be
1:23:29
heard and the effective part of this um that there's a lot of discussion now um
1:23:38
the recent book abundance being related to it and that process gets in the way
1:23:43

of government seeming effective um to some degree uh our boards were appointed
1:23:48
and elected to speak for all the people and while it's good that all the people
1:23:54
have a chance to have input um adding too much additional process can
1:24:01
cause things that should be decided in one meeting to stretch out over a season yes
1:24:08
and and we've seen that unintentionally happen and intentionally be done right
1:24:14
um because the body doesn't want to make you can go both directions on that as well absolutely that there are there is
1:24:21
stalling until something is stale for sure yeah laura
1:24:28
yeah I I wanted to say sort of um just to kind of piggyback on what Frank is
1:24:34
saying like you know yes of course um we we want to be approaching our rule making um with from a place of peace and
1:24:42
love but also need to acknowledge that we all have blind spots um even when
1:24:47
we're the most peaceable and loving and well-intentioned um you know even though I work in
1:24:56
disability rights all of the time can still discover that I have blind spots
1:25:01
and you know and our systems are slow to change obviously um you know we've had
1:25:08
websites and um and state and local governments intending to be inclusive
1:25:14
and slowly but surely have been adding ways to be more inclusive but you know
1:25:20
it took till 2024 for us to have a final rule governing um website accessibility
1:25:27
um so um you know be I just want to say
1:25:32
we need to be patient with ourselves and also acknowledge that we're you know
1:25:38
we're not going to get it right right now all the time even though you know at
1:25:43
Disability Rights Vermont we're like get it right get it right uh it's it's imperative that we get it right right
1:25:49
now uh for our community members with disabilities but um you know I I believe
1:25:56
in everybody's good intentions so yeah I I like that and I um I would sort
1:26:06
of summarize that as like be okay saying you're you got it wrong um and have
1:26:12
humility about that and um and that requires grace on all sides but probably
1:26:18
most for ourselves uh Megan
1:26:25
um I may have missed it but you know translation services that are available
1:26:30
assisted devices i know in Burlington City Hall and KTO they had assisted
1:26:37
listening devices but I'm not sure if they're still there or if they're connected to the hybrid system you know
1:26:45
makes me wonder about that and then I think about you know the Anti-Defamation League has some good um ideas around the
1:26:54
running of meetings in the wake of divisiveness certainly in Essex Junction
1:27:01
and in Burlington City Council there were incidences and I know it happened around the state of um neo-Nazi groups
1:27:09
using the public meeting time as a way to spread um some pretty nasty really
1:27:16
just outright anti-semitic racist um stuff and the the you know that Six
1:27:25

Junction wanted us to remove those from the recordings and we're like no it's part of the public it's part of the
1:27:31
public um was part of the public um meeting so we can't it's not zoom bombing it was an
1:27:38
actual use of the what is the word that I'm thinking of the public the public commentary
1:27:47
and you know we contacted ADL and they gave some really good guidance around
1:27:53
how to respond to and and that you know you know that as the chair of the
1:27:59
meeting you don't have to just say thanks for your comments you can also say your comments are violating of our
1:28:07
um community standards so that there you don't have to just sort of sit
1:28:13
silently in the face of blatant racism and hate and I know that's a fun and
1:28:19
maybe making your comm maybe making your community standards public and and and
1:28:25
known to everyone um not that you have to say them at the beginning of the meeting every time but they're known to
1:28:30
everyone walking into the meeting um so that the chair has the support to say
1:28:35
that right there you go thank you for helping to summarize that yeah well I I
1:28:41
No I I just was that I think that's a question for me because I I wasn't um
1:28:46
trying to summarize you actually i was just trying to say like I don't know that everybody does has community
1:28:52
standards exactly and I think community standards make bodies more accessible
1:28:58
and more effective ultimately um but and probably should be a best practice but
1:29:04
you know I don't or we set um community standards for all i don't I
1:29:11
don't know is that should there be a state I don't think so we do have community standards we do have community
1:29:16
standards but we don't necessarily say them out loud right and so those community standards so in the case of
1:29:25
and it and it does get tricky and so you know that's the place where because people are confusing um you know the
1:29:33
right to say what you want to say at a meeting with free speech as opposed to the the the right of the people who are
1:29:40
sitting at the body to also say this counters our community standards i I can
1:29:46
tell by all the hands raised i know me too i was about to say topic yes it's a
1:29:51
juicy topic but um I So we learned a lot we've learned a lot through that process
1:29:58
and I'm excited to hear what others have to say yeah I am too and I think I would
1:30:03
also be really interested to hear from people about you know how long do people
1:30:10
from the public are they allowed to speak um I think that is also a really helpful thing for there to be
1:30:15
established at the beginning of the meeting and when is the time for the public to speak because um that is a
1:30:21
really really uh confusing thing as a member of the public and something that is uh really hard as a body to manage
1:30:30
and causes a lot of friction so Frank as a member of the public please speak
1:30:38
oh you're on mute Frank I'm sorry famous last words uh yeah the the time
1:30:47
frame that you're talking about um pallets had some very interesting meetings in fact we were the supposedly
1:30:54
the highest rated uh Peg TV follows and has permanently
1:31:00

put equipment into the pilot town hall uh we were the highest rated meeting you
1:31:05
know viewed programming uh due to some stuff that was in the
1:31:11
news and whatnot and and the chairperson and the body basically starts off with a
1:31:18
comment about the how the meeting's going to be run uh and there's a
1:31:24
limitation uh in the public um comment area for two minutes for
1:31:32
example unless you are coming forward in with a pre um uh authorized
1:31:40
spot in the agenda um that then gets run through and could
1:31:46
be also limited uh and so this tool for is you can go on and on as I can
1:31:56
but but if you can limit it limit it in the agenda and in the setup to the
1:32:01
meeting where people are pre-notified that they got a certain length of time
1:32:08
and that's it they can't use it as a bully pulpit uh they can bring up their
1:32:13
issue and then there can be comments relative to the position of the town relative to any comment that's going on
1:32:21
that that may be controversial which controversy and speech and all
1:32:28
that stuff gets wrapped up into you know your lawyers may know a lot about that
1:32:34
uh but the inclusive aspect of it means like love when you don't have a degree
1:32:41
of inclusivity or love then do you actually have inclusiveness or love uh
1:32:48
and so you got to include time for for whatever and but you don't have to
1:32:54
listen to it all day thank you yeah thank you Susan
1:33:02
yeah uh let's see here yeah I was recently uh reviewing the uh Vermont League of Cities and Towns um effective
1:33:08
and legal meetings uh handbook uh that they or toolkit I think it was um that
1:33:15
they put together and they actually do talk about um some specific guidance on um community standards and in fact um
1:33:22
starting meetings with uh going over ground rules and and and one of my
1:33:27
critiques um I think in general of these kinds of things is that we we focus heavily on the legal what is a legal
1:33:33
meeting um but um the effective part um is kind of left to be a form of art you
1:33:39
know and and that's I think something that we might be able to come up with some uh you know updatable u best
1:33:46
practices or something like that and one of the keys I think that's coming out in this conversation is that there are different types of meetings
there are
1:33:53
different types of meetings and and we as um as as as a as communities um
1:34:01
should be able to offer a variet ies in the kinds of meetings and we we can and I think a local leaders aren't
1:34:06
always trained in that but you can have not everything has to be a public hearing not everybody not not every
1:34:12
meeting has to be three minutes at the microphone not every meeting um uh some
1:34:17
some meetings are exploratory some meetings are decision-making so to be very very clear about the purpose of the
1:34:23
meeting and then match the purpose of the meeting with a good process for that meeting and sometimes that's going to be
1:34:29
small groups little groups where everybody gets to talk everybody gets to talk for a long time uh because you're

1:34:36
in small groups and then the content is captured for for the full group so um

1:34:41
and it can be a field trip you know it can be a work group so lots of ways to get people together and um I think maybe

1:34:48
uh one thing we can do is sort of elevate the options um so that towns realize that they have more options to

1:34:56
handle this incredibly intense um need to come together and and to have our say

1:35:02
that we're feeling right now yeah thank you Susan andy

1:35:11
uh that was great stuff and I I want to talk more about these different uh meeting modalities and and how we can

1:35:17
address some of those um thinking about public comment um the recent ACSD

1:35:25
meeting to not have students at the Ripton School next year um

1:35:33
our select board always has public comment at the beginning and it's usually as long as you want to talk but

1:35:38
sometimes we will uh suggest people wrap it up if it's taking up more than the

1:35:44
allocated 15 or 20 minutes of time or there's a lot of people that we don't recognize for an agenda item and we we

1:35:51
we'd like to uh restrict time a little bit because of that but we tend not to

1:35:56
cut people off or do anything like that and haven't needed to but at the schoolboard meeting they had a lengthy

1:36:03
uh meeting where they muddled through Robert's rules as best as they could and had public comment at the end which they

1:36:09
always do at the schoolboard meetings and discovered that they'd made like this decision to move all these kids

1:36:14
from Ripton to the Salsbury school even though all the parents in attendance who spoke after this decision was made were

1:36:20
like you know we don't go to Salisbury but we're always driving through Middbury it would be way easier for us

1:36:26
if that was the decision that you'd made it's actually closer even though the school board decided by fiat that it was

1:36:33
easier that it was closer to Salisbury than to the Mbury school and just the

1:36:38
the timing at which uh the public participation happened um completely

1:36:44
left real useful voices out of the decision that was made at a very important

1:36:51
meeting it was uh unfortunate and I'm glad that we do public comment at the beginning

1:36:57
yeah and I've I've there's lots of different structures um there's public comment at the beginning there's public

1:37:04
comment interspersed with each topic and then there's public comment at the end

1:37:09
and um you know just anecdotally when bodies decide to do public comment at

1:37:15
the end most people who provide public comment feel like the decision-m uh

1:37:21
their their opinion didn't matter to the body right you are you're not asking for

1:37:26
our opinion on the decision you you are making you're asking for our opinion on the decision that you've already made

1:37:32
and uh I think we all can agree it feels very different um in any context uh to

1:37:41
be asked on your opinion on the decision that's already been made uh Cynthia

1:37:51
Cynthia I often see stuff in the chat because my brain is such that I lose what I was saying very quickly so um

1:37:58
excuse for the for the little chat on the side um organiz

1:38:03
organization of the meeting we recently had an issue whereby people were sitting through an entire meeting to get to a

1:38:09
thing that they were hoping to speak to and then to find out that it had been
1:38:15
cancelled due to whatever reasons and uh so there was many irked people at that
1:38:21
meeting so organization of how it's laid out um the agendas I in my world that would
1:38:29
have come up at the uh acceptance of the agenda at the very beginning of the meeting like the second item um would
1:38:36
have called out that there was a change to the to the published agenda i guess
1:38:41
that didn't happen um actually it didn't happen but then they said as much they
1:38:47
had decided before the meeting even started to be recorded that they were not going to do that because they didn't have something from the
lawyer or
1:38:53
whatever but but people will not want to sit through the entire meeting and so if they see that at 8:30 their topic is
1:38:59
going to come up they are counting on being able to come in at 8:30 and not sit through an hour of um you know usual
1:39:06
dribble um necessary and I
1:39:12
I think to that point too you know I've seen some bodies um put what they know
1:39:17
is the most important thing to the public first on the agenda and the
1:39:22
things that are more um you know run of the dribble the more um gerine to the
1:39:28
people of the body second third and fourth um so that's something that we
1:39:33
should talk about too there's there's sort of a stylistic choice to be made on whether you put the
1:39:39
most hot topic last or whether you put the most hot topic first and I I
1:39:45
definitely would posit that inclusivity uh is relevant to how you set up the
1:39:51
agenda yes thank you
1:39:58
anything else on I guess we got from inclusivity to community standards and public comment that's that was the the
1:40:05
way that conversation train happened um but anything else on um community
1:40:12
standards and public comment that we could talk about as it relates to inclusivity
1:40:18
um and then I'd like to transition to other ways that a meeting is inclusive
1:40:23
uh Frank yeah maybe we we operate um on on a uh
1:40:32
topic by topic agenda basis where the public is are allowed to weigh in and uh
1:40:38
it might be something that the process can uh emphasize that's because that's
1:40:43
inclusive with no doubt about it that the process can include the time limits
1:40:50
uh for with for the chair to be able to set up for that type of of of involvement
1:40:56
uh and then people know they have a certain amount of time to get it out
1:41:02
what they're going to say uh which moves the move meeting along as opposed to
1:41:07
being subjected to um an extended diet trap of of uh who
1:41:15
knows what thank you i've seen bodies also say that
1:41:20
if your comment is duplicative that it should not be voiced so that's a whole other topic that we should talk about in
1:41:27

best practices um Andy um I just want to suggest that maybe uh

1:41:34

one or two options for community standards i have not seen what the league provides i i haven't done as much

1:41:40

homework as Susan on this um but that might be something that would fit in

1:41:46

with our final report is here are a couple suggestions for community

1:41:52

standards that can help to frame uh public comment and what is it what is

1:41:58

expected what is allowed and how you respond i love that definitely should be in our

1:42:04

best practices guide and called out in the final report

1:42:11

any other topic about inclusivity we've hit a whole bunch of big ones um

1:42:21

Laura um just in terms of like inclusivity and

1:42:27

public comment you know there been a couple suggestions out there like having

1:42:32

someone who passes a mic or whatever but maybe and I realize that this requires a lot of data and tech but like offering

1:42:40

people a way on their town website to record a threeinut

1:42:46

um public comment that can then be played you know a succession of them could be

1:42:51

played in the public meeting so that people are actively engaging without having to be in the space or um you know

1:42:59

being included in the in the public comment process but without having to be

1:43:04

there um if say they have disabilities that prevent them from being in the space or having their public comment be

1:43:11

read out loud by somebody um a way to submit public comment um and similar to

1:43:17

that you know I I just Andy I see your hand and I'm I'm going to get to you but similar to that um you know we do

1:43:24

definitely have a digital divide and not everyone has access to a computer or a mobile phone like I unfortunately have

1:43:31

two iPhones um you know like not everybody has that so I think it's

1:43:36

important too that there's an ability to call into a meeting and that as part of

1:43:42

inclusivity that people identify who they are as they're talking um for so

1:43:47

that people who are which we have not been doing but we also don't have anyone just on a phone here um but um that that

1:43:54

people um that people who are on the phone know who's talking and know the

1:43:59

order of operations and are able to know when they are authorized to speak so uh

1:44:05

the ability to submit comments either uh with their own voices in a recording or

1:44:11

um in an email statement that somebody reads out loud and uh telephone access

1:44:16

um Andy where's that microphone button there we

1:44:22

go um I I worry a little bit about encouraging video presentation uh into

1:44:31

open meetings for the digital divide thing as well as

1:44:36

there's already right anything that's addressed to the board is published in

1:44:42

the packet that's available to everyone um is often called out as the acceptance

1:44:48

um of the uh consent agenda or whatever the the format for that is in each town

1:44:57

um I I my my initial response to that is is not
1:45:04
entirely positive that's all
1:45:10
thank you i and and I think maybe um
1:45:15
what maybe underlying this is and we have talked about a little bit is the tension
1:45:21
and Frank's talked about it quite a bit the tension of public comment and the
1:45:27
length of public comment and the accessibility of public comment with efficient and those two yes they overlap
1:45:35
but they also are in tension frequently um particularly when there's something
1:45:41
difficult that needs to be talked about um Frank
1:45:48
attempting not to be redundant uh is that we have ex handicap
1:45:56
accessibility access to buildings what we're talking about is handicap accessibility and universal
1:46:03
accessibility to these meetings on an inclusive basis and so uh some people
1:46:10
are going to simply have due to who they are
1:46:16
um may not fit within the rules so there has to be exceptions to the rules
1:46:22
and an and a process to accommodate those individuals equally
1:46:29
uh from the peace and love framework type of concept so uh that becomes
1:46:35
not potentially rulebased but it becomes more of a of a sensibilitybased type of
1:46:43
decision where uh if you create guidelines that are too strict that
1:46:49
doesn't allow for that uh free flow and adjustment and recognition
1:46:56
then um we box ourselves into a corner essentially so we have to keep open
1:47:03
uh to all comers as Laura was saying and how to do that becomes challenging when
1:47:09
somebody has a more difficult time getting something out that they want to say
1:47:15
uh versus somebody else who can be concise and say it very quickly thank you yeah thank you Frank and I just want
1:47:22
to make sure I guess for the record and I'm not the expert here Laura is there
1:47:28
are definitely some very strict legal requirements for public bodies to make sure that the buildings are accessible i
1:47:34
just want that to be really clear um and I don't think we're meeting that always
1:47:39
and um and we probably need to talk very openly about that and talk about how to
1:47:45
fix that um because that uh there are very clear guidelines both state and
1:47:52
federal on what is required for public buildings um and public meetings and accessibility so Laura I don't want to
1:47:59
step on your space but I just I want that record to be clear um and I hope I didn't step on your toes okay i I didn't
1:48:06
step on Laura's toes for the record uh she's shaking her head so uh that I didn't so Susan
1:48:15
yeah I just we've been talking about public comment and I and I think that that is important because of course we're talking about public
meetings but
1:48:22
I think um uh some of the things that we're talking about here really um are
1:48:28
my hope would be to expand um the definition from public comment to public engagement um and fully embracing that

1:48:37
people are different and people engage in different ways and sometimes these meetings are not you know just a just
1:48:43
that that really strict definition of of the legal definition of what a public hearing is is not going to be the best
1:48:48
way to get um uh the story um and so um the the degree to which this group can
1:48:57
um offer models uh suggestions for um thinking outside of that public hearing
1:49:03
box um and yes we want meetings to be great and we also want lots of different ways for people to engage um I think the
1:49:11
better we can do that the um the richer our answers will be
1:49:17
cynthia um I agree with you Susan and um I think in best in our best practices
1:49:23
guide we need to really talk about uh the public engagement and public comment
1:49:28
is just one subsection of that and Cynthia I really see your comment that you just made um as very relevant to
1:49:36
what Susan just was talking about i'm just wondering if you could speak to um information sharing uh I what I think is
1:49:44
you're talking about is um information sharing uh before a meeting and during a
1:49:49
meeting and after a meeting because um there
1:49:56
have been many cases here where there is a decision to be made and it needs to have public input and a public forum is
1:50:02
held or a survey is handed out and a minority fill it out but then the it's
1:50:08
never used and um or a public form forum that was planned but never adequately
1:50:14
advertised and so if I hadn't personally invited a number of people nobody would
1:50:19
have been there um so uh there seems to be a lethargy about
1:50:27
advertising things that might make democracy a messier process than it already is um and adding that into a
1:50:36
best practice would be great so like we're not wasting our time having these public forums that are just going to not
1:50:42
go anywhere and not be used so that brings up something for me and
1:50:47
I'm just going to take um a prerogative here to talk about is channels of communication um which I think we should
1:50:55
talk about too you know we have the legal requirements for posting a a public meeting and notice to the public
1:51:02
um legally a lot of that is somewhat outdated um and um we should talk about
1:51:11
if there's legal updates that need to be made on notice for open meetings but
1:51:18
also um best practices um how communities could provide more notice to
1:51:23
more people um and if there are technology resources and financial
1:51:29
resources that bodies need in order to affectuate that right um but uh I think
1:51:36
most towns know now know um or have the opportunity to know how to communicate
1:51:43
with the majority of their citizens either by email or text of course there
1:51:48
is the digital divide um or um many of us have front porch forum is that an
1:51:54
acceptable way should should bodies be putting uh their agendas and their notice of their meetings on there um
1:52:01
some do that um proactively some don't um so I'd love to add that to the
1:52:07
conversation channels of notifying the public about um what they're going to talk about

1:52:16
and I love uh your your last comment Cynthia on celebrate i think we
1:52:22
frequently forget to celebrate anything everywhere we just we need to celebrate
1:52:29
more and particularly when you are leading a community through a hard thing um it's hard to figure out how to
1:52:36
celebrate but it probably is important to to figure out how to celebrate the accomplishment of a hard conversation
1:52:44
megan I think specifically and I I won't have
1:52:50
the legislation number but specifically on the the question of um notice for
1:52:56
meetings there may be some legislation that you're aware of there is I don't know the number either but um there's
1:53:03
some updating of the notice requirement for municipal for municipal buildings
1:53:09
municipal meetings yeah and I wanna I want to say that some of that also has to do with a kind of inverse effect of
1:53:17
preserving which you know when you get
1:53:22
Oh Megan you yeah oh oh no she paused and then disappeared
1:53:31
megan are you there did the aliens take you
1:53:36
so there goes our quorum yeah oh Megan
1:53:44
I don't know what happened i I don't want to be a conspiracy theorist
1:53:51
but but she did go blank and then she was gone
1:53:58
maybe she fell off the chair i hope not um
1:54:04
where were we we have I just want to note we have five more minutes of this meeting i do have a hard stop at noon
1:54:11
and I know all of you probably have a lot of competing uh interests on your day um so maybe while we wait for Megan
1:54:20
to um return and hopefully she does that um I just want to say that um in the
1:54:27
spirit of all the things that we're talking about you know I am really
1:54:33
Wait are you still I'm hearing you oh
1:54:39
were you hearing me the whole time because my computer died oh no we didn't we were actually concerned thing and no
1:54:47
we were concerned that the aliens took you because you were good good i'm happy
1:54:53
that that's not true because what happened was you froze then you went blank and then you were not there um is
1:55:00
what it looked like to us so I'm still here and if I remember what I was saying it'll be a miracle
1:55:08
okay but um so I think Megan what I
1:55:13
think um I was attempting to transition us to a close of the meeting but Laura I
1:55:18
see that your hands up and I want to hear from you i was just going to ask if we have some goals for the next meeting uh some next
1:55:27
steps or some things to consider discussing yeah well yes uh let me just and this is
1:55:34
actually in line with what I was talking about um you know in preparation for
1:55:39
this meeting as I started candidly I did not have time really to um create an
1:55:46
agenda and provide an agenda to all of you and that is very clear um feedback
1:55:51

from what we've been talking about to run an effective and inclusive meeting we need to do that so I think uh although the feedback was not directly

1:55:58

pro provided to me on running this meeting it is received we need to be doing that so we will um I don't Uh so

1:56:07

that will happen so the next um goal of next meeting is um to um continue our

1:56:14

conversation on running effective and inclusive meetings and the second topic

1:56:21

is really um civic health indexes which is um and uh Robin just dropped off but

1:56:28

she is the lead on the secretary of state's civic health index so we'll continue to talk about running effective

1:56:34

and inclusive meetings um and I think we'll move out of coming to a common

1:56:39

understanding of um effective and inclusive and the places where we

1:56:44

haven't um don't have a common understanding to the use of universal design for annual meetings which frankly

1:56:52

I don't know uh what that means so I'm going to need some help on that um and

1:56:58

training um public bodies for compliance with open meeting laws those are the two things um in this broader topic that I

1:57:05

would like to talk about at our next meeting then I'd like to reserve probably uh half an hour or 45 minutes

1:57:11

um to uh talk about the civic health index what it was what we found i don't

1:57:17

think we need to take a huge um bulk of time of this group to talk about it but

1:57:22

it definitely will be a section of our report and I think this this group should all know about it so I am

1:57:28

planning to have Robin talk about that for probably half an hour or 45 minutes um and hear feedback on that and next

1:57:35

steps on that from this group um and um Jenny I'm thinking we should send a

1:57:41

digital link to that uh civic health index which is on our Secretary of State's page to everybody in this group

1:57:48

um and then the next meeting will be wrapping up this topic so then that's

1:57:54

our second meeting is on May 9th and our next meeting is on May 22nd so we will

1:58:00

um will uh be firming up and and finalizing

1:58:06

that discussion which includes recording minutes and creating best practices i

1:58:12

think we're probably going to have to have a subgroup on the the creating best practices um that will continue um and

1:58:18

be building that as we go because I I just don't see how we're going to be able to draft best practices as a group

1:58:25

in these meetings on the timeline that we have and then we'll have to come back as a group to talk about the draft and

1:58:31

the changes um but there's just I don't see how we can do that in a group way and I'm seeing some acknowledgement that

1:58:37

that's Yes thank you that that's accurate but um that was my thought laura

1:58:44

sorry I I didn't hear what you said um the two things was use of universal

1:58:49

design for open meetings and what was the next thing you said um the next

1:58:54

thing was uh training of public bodies on open meeting law yeah

1:59:02

frank yeah on the the recording issues

1:59:08

uh there is a halves and halves not that Andy probably can com confer yeah frank

1:59:13

I'm going to stop us um sorry I don't want to interrupt you but I'm trying to wrap up because I need to get to another

1:59:19

meeting and the recording we're going to do not at the next meeting but on May um

1:59:26

22nd so um if you have ideas on that please email them to Jenny um but but I

1:59:32

would I do need us to wrap up this meeting just because um I've taken up a lot of everybody's time and I have

1:59:38

another meeting as well okay thank you very much we'll do that and I'll talk to Andy maybe in an interim great

1:59:46

appreciate it thank you so much everyone i really appreciate your time and input it's been a wonderful conversation thank

1:59:53

you thank you great job right